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Serial No: No 10/516509 (PCT/AU03/00698)
Application Filed: 3 June 2003
Applicant: Vimala Sarma
Application Title: Leg exercise device
Attention: Fenn C. Mathew, Art Unit 3764

Dear Sirs,

Amendment

Please amend the above referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 33, 36 to 51 and 55 to 57 as shown in the attached amended claims.

Please delete claims 34, 35, 52, 53 and 54.

REMARKS

Amended claims 33 to 57 are attached corresponding to the claims under consideration that were renumbered by the examiner.

Claims 34, 35, 52, 53 and 54 are deleted as these are now redundant in view of amended claim 33.

The remaining claims have been amended so that their claim dependencies are correctly numbered for the renumbered claims.

In the Official Action the examiner rejected the claims in view of US 6,045,489 to Levine. Levine discloses a leg exercise device upon which the user stands. The device of Levine has two chambers, one for each leg. The user transfers fluid between the two chambers by shifting the user's weight or by "stepping" or "walking" on alternate chambers.

In the present invention, as defined by amended claim 33, there is provided a base and a total of four chambers, comprising two first chambers and two second chambers, there being one first and one second chamber for each foot. The device has first surfaces for engagement with first parts of the user's feet and second surfaces for engagement of second parts of the user's feet. In practice these are usually the heel and toe areas of the feet.

The chambers are interconnected via a valve that has two operable positions or states. In one position the first and second chambers of each foot communicate with each other but not with the chambers of the other foot. This allows an independent heel and toe rocking action of each leg, i.e. rotation of the feet about the ankle whilst the legs remain relatively stationary. This allows the user to exercise their calf muscles whilst sitting which is important in preventing deep vein thrombosis. The provision of two chambers for each foot that can be made independent of the chambers of the other foot means that the user may exercise

each foot and leg independently of the other. This combination of four chambers and the valve that allows the heel and toe rocking action is not found in Levine and, accordingly, it is submitted that the invention defined by claim 33 is novel and inventive over Levine.

The invention of claim 33 also allows the chambers to be linked so the first chambers are interlinked and the second chambers to be interlinked. This allows the user to perform a leg pumping exercise but also allows the user to perform a heel and toe rocking action in which either the heel or toe regions of both feet remain relatively stationary whilst the feet are alternately rocked, for example, if the heels remain stationary the toes of one foot are raised whilst the toes of the other foot are lowered.

Thus the device of claim 33 allows the user to perform with the one device, albeit in different configurations:

1. a leg pumping action;
2. a heel and toe rocking action of each limb independent of the other, and
3. a heel and toe rocking action of both limbs together

This combination is believed to be both novel and inventive over the prior art.

It is submitted that claim 33 is novel and inventive and, accordingly, the objections against the remaining claims are now moot.

A favourable response is awaited.

Kind regards,



Vimala Sarma